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HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR ABAG PROGRAMS

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What will ABAG's staff and policy committees be working on in the coming year? Here are highlights of the major issues included in ABAG's Work Program.

Air Quality Planning

In conjunction with the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, ABAG will be developing over the next two years an Air Quality Maintenance Plan (AQMP) for the region to meet Federal and State standards. It will consider a comprehensive set of actions to improve air quality. The actions will cover both stationary and transportation sources of pollution. Environmental, social and economic effects of proposed control strategies will be assessed, with considerable emphasis given to strategies that are implementable and publicly acceptable. The plan will be part of the Environmental Management Plan.

Environmental Management Planning

The Environmental Management Plan will consist of seven separate but coordinated plans: surface water runoff; municipal wastewater facilities; industrial discharges; nonpoint sources of water pollution other than surface runoff (construction sites, septic tanks and vessels); water conservation, reuse and supply; air quality maintenance; and solid waste. This is a two-year program.

Housing Planning

In response to Federal requests, ABAG has been working with its member jurisdictions to develop a housing subsidy distribution system to be used by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in distributing its low- and moderate-income housing subsidies. The system -- adopted by the Executive Board in September 1976 -- will be used by ABAG in reviewing local housing assistance plans and applications for housing and community development grants. More specific policies for ABAG actions in housing will also be developed as part of ABAG's Regional Housing Element.

(more)



Human Services Planning

ABAG is now providing leadership for two major human services planning programs.

The two major objectives of ABAG's human services capacity building program are to assist member governments in the planning and evaluation of human services, and to promote the integration of physical, social and environmental planning with the region. "Human Services" means any service or activity designed to promote the social welfare of the individual or community. Generally these services cover the areas of employment, health, mental health, education, etc. Often human services are described in terms of client groups (e.g. youth services, services to the handicapped, services to the aging, etc.).

In emergency medical services, a basic life support system for the nine-county region is to be completed by June 1977. This means that an ambulance will reach the victim in an emergency within 10 minutes in an urban area, and in no more than 30 minutes in a rural area. Each ambulance will have two emergency medical technicians who have each had a minimum of 96 hours training. Each ambulance will be equipped with two-way communications equipment, which will provide prompt direct contact with the hospital as often as necessary.

Santa Clara Valley Corridor Evaluation

The Joint Policy Committee (JPC) of ABAG and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission will develop regional policies for the Santa Clara Valley Corridor. The first evaluation completed last year was for the San Mateo Coast Corridor. The purpose of corridor evaluations is to define regional policies for major capital investment decisions within the corridor area. The evaluations also provide a method for coordinating the policies of ABAG and MTC to aid in the review of applications for Federal and State assistance. ABAG will focus on regionally significant growth and development issues and MTC will focus on transportation issues as well as options for alternative transportation systems.

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